

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 FRB-02 AGR-20 IGA-02

PM-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-20 SP-03 /117 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR - KLWAUCHOPE:LH

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR - MR. BURKE

ARA/MGT - MR. GROVER

ARA/ECP - MR. LANDBERG

ARA/PLC - MR. MARTIN

ARA/CAR - MR. WHEELER

DOD/ISA - CAPTAIN GOODEN

LA/DP - MR. LOVAAS

DOD/JCS - MR. SLOUGH

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O 071856Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BF

SUBJECT: FY 1975-76 CASP - BAHAMAS

1. THE PRE-IG MEETING ON THE BAHAMAS CASP WAS HELD ON MAY 2. PRE-IG AGREED WITH GENERAL TONE OF CASP AND ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS. PRE-IG AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO MAJOR ISSUES WITH THE BAHAMAS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR'S OVERVIEW WAS AGREED TO BE A REALISTIC AND ACCURATE ANALYSIS OF US-BAHAMIAN CONCERNS. HOWEVER, OBJECTIONS WERE RAISED TO FOUR PROPOSALS PRESENTED IN THE OVERVIEW AND INCLUDED IN SUMMARY SHEET ON RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL, BUT NOT OTHERWISE DISCUSSED IN THE CASP. THESE PROPOSALS ARE 1) \$25,000 IN SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS (SDAF) , 2) INCREASE IN FSL ADMINISTRATIVE

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STAFF BY TWO, 3) ASSIGNMENT OF YOEMAN TO NLO'S OFFICE AND

4) VARIOUS EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. ACTION OFFICES NOTED THAT WHILE THEY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE CONCERNS OF THE AMBASSADOR AND COUNTRY TEAM WHEN ALLOCATING RESOURCES, THEY COULD NOT MAKE A FINAL DECISION IN THE IG CONTEXT. PROPOSALS 2 AND 4 HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND DECISIONS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE MADE IN RESPONSE TO SEPARATE REQUESTS. PROPOSAL 1 HAS BEEN PRESENTED INFORMALLY AND FINAL DECISION DEPENDS UPON FURTHER JUSTIFICATION FROM EMBASSY. IF EMBASSY WISHES SDAF PROPOSAL TO BE RAISED IN IG EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE SOONEST ANY FURTHER ARGUMENTATION IN FAVOR OF SDAF

IT WISHES TO SUBMIT. PROPOSAL 3 SHOULD BE INITIATED BY THE NLO THROUGH APPROPRIATE DOD CHANNELS.

3. UNDER US ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, THE PROMOTION OF US EXPORTS WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE US SHARE OF THE MARKET APPEARS TO HAVE DECLINED SLIGHTLY, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR THIS INTEREST MIGHT BE INCREASED TO MEDIUM. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE STATISTICS ON US SHARE OF THE MARKET ARE AMBIGUOUS, (AS POINTED OUT IN EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT FOR 1973) AND THAT THE BAHAMAS COMMERCIAL ACTION PROGRAM HAS BEEN INITIATED SATISFACTORILY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF HIGH PRIORITY WHICH USG GIVES TO EXPORT EXPANSION, AND BAHAMAS POSITION AS THIRD LARGEST US EXPORT MARKET IN CARIBBEAN, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO AGAIN REVIEW THE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE CASP TIME FRAME TO DETERMINE WHETHER A HIGHER LEVEL OF CONCERN WOULD BE WARRANTED.

4. UNDER US NATIONAL DEFENSE, THE PRE-IG QUESTIONED THE LOW LEVEL OF CONCERN IN FY 75 VERSUS THE NONE LEVEL OF FY 76. IF THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES CONCLUDING THE DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT ON THE MILITARY FACILITY AND OPERATING RIGHTS IN FY 74, WHY IS THE LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR FY 75 NOT THE SAME AS FOR FY 76? IF THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL MORE LIKELY CONTINUE INTO FY 75, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE LEVEL OF CONCERN BE INCREASED TO MEDIUM FOR THAT YEAR.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY'S COMMENTS, NLT 5/14. RUSH
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